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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	STAN209 3109
	First Named Inventor	R. Kuo
	Application Number	09/733,266
	Filing Date	December 8, 2000
	Group Art Unit	1651
Address to: Box AF Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Examiner Name	V. Afremova
	Title	Methods for Modulation of Oocyte Activation

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Sir:

This amendment and response is responsive to the Office Action dated September 6, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before December 6, 2002. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time is submitted herewith, making this response due on or before January 6, 2003. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

In view of the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. AMENDMENTS**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 5 and 15 as follows:

1. A method of activating an oocyte *in vitro*, the method comprising:
- contacting a non-activated oocyte with nitric oxide (NO), an NO donor, nitric oxide synthase (NOS), or inducer of NOS; and,
- maintaining said oocyte until the oocyte has undergone at least one cell division, wherein said activation is performed in the absence of sperm and wherein an oocyte that has undergone at least one cell division indicates that the oocyte is activated.

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